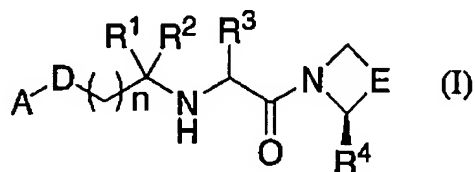


Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which is satisfactory in respect of activity, stability and safety and has an excellent action as a pharmaceutical agent. A compound represented by the following general formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein R^1 and R^2 each represents hydrogen, an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or $-\text{COOR}^5$ whereupon R^5 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, or R^1 , R^2 , and a carbon atom together represent a 3- to 6-membered cycloalkyl group, R^3 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C6-10 aryl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen or a cyano group, D represents $-\text{CONR}^6-$, $-\text{CO}-$ or $-\text{NR}^6\text{CO}-$, R^6 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C1-6 alkyl group, E represents $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-$ whereupon m is 1 to 3, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-$, or $-\text{SCH}_2-$, n is 0 to 3, and A represents an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclic group or bicyclic hydrocarbon group.